Clarence Cannon Papers
(C0892)

Collection Number: C0892

Collection Title: Clarence Cannon Papers

Dates: 1893-1964

Creator: Cannon, Clarence, 1879-1964

Abstract: Papers of Cannon, Democratic congressman from Missouri’s 9th district, 1923-1964, and of Champ Clark (1850-1921), Democratic congressman from Missouri’s 9th district, 1893-1895 and 1897-1921, and Speaker of the House. Papers include correspondence of Cannon and Clark, speeches by Clark, newspaper columns written by Cannon, a constituent card file kept by Cannon, and miscellaneous material.

Collection Size: 2.3 cubic feet
(44 folders, 1 volume, 5 card files)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Clarence Cannon Papers (C0892); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by the University of Missouri-Columbia Library and Melinda Hackethorn on June 13, 1977 (Accession No. CA4079 and 4080). Additions were made by the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis on April 24, 1980 (Accession No. CA4278); Glenn English on February 28, 1983 (Accession No. CA4494); and Melinda Hackethorn and Ida Lee Pixley on November 28, 1983 (Accession No. CA4540).

**Historical Note:**

Clarence Cannon was born in Elsberry, Lincoln County, Missouri, on 11 April 1879. He graduated from La Grange Junior College in Hannibal in 1901, William Jewell College in Liberty in 1903, and from the University of Missouri law department in 1908. In 1911, Cannon became a clerk in Speaker Clark's office; he was parliamentarian of the House from 1915 to 1920 and parliamentarian of the Democratic Party national conventions from 1920 to 1960. He was elected and continuously reelected to the House as a Democrat from Missouri's 9th District from 1923 until his death in Washington, D.C. on 12 May 1964. He is buried at Elsberry.

Champ Clark was born in Kentucky on 7 March 1850. He graduated from Bethany College in West Virginia in 1873 and from Cincinnati Law School in 1875. He moved to Bowling Green, Pike County, Missouri, in 1876 and was elected to the state house of representatives in 1889 and 1891. In 1892 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat from Missouri's 9th District. He was not reelected to the next Congress in 1894, but won election to the 55th Congress in 1896. He served in Congress from 1897 until his death in 1921. Clark was minority leader of the House from 1907 to 1911, and Speaker of the House from 1911 to 1919. He was the leading presidential candidate at the Democratic Party convention in 1912, eventually losing to Woodrow Wilson. Clark died in Washington, D.C., on 2 March 1921 and is buried at Bowling Green.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Champ Clark Papers
Clarence Cannon Papers

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Champ Clark Papers**

This collection contains correspondence (1901-1921), speeches and articles (1893-1926), clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous material. The material is arranged by type and then chronologically. Undated speeches and articles are arranged alphabetically by title, or by subject when un-titled. Much of the correspondence and many of the speeches deal with Clark's attempt to gain the 1912 Democratic presidential nomination.

**Clarence Cannon Papers**

This collection contains correspondence (1921-1935, 1962-1963), copies of Cannon's newspaper column that appeared in 9th District papers (1943-1949), papers from Cannon's college days, and a constituent card file (1940-1964).
Container List:

Champ Clark Papers

f. 1-6  Correspondence, 1901-1921
f. 1  1901-1908.
f. 2  1909. Letters from local leaders responding to a circular letter of
Clark's asking their opinion on why Missouri voted Republican
in the 1908 election. Letters from other members of Congress
concerning tariffs and other legislative matters.
f. 3  1910-1911. Correspondence concerning 1910 election and 1912
Democratic presidential nomination.
f. 4-5  1912. Correspondence about the Democratic National
Convention and its outcome.
f. 6  1913-1921, n.d. Efforts of Lon V. Stephens to be appointed
comptroller.

f. 7-25  Speeches and Articles, 1893-1926, n.d.
f. 7  1893-1911. Bound volumes of Clark's speeches in the House of
Representatives.
f. 8  1899.
f. 9  1900s.
f. 10  1911.
f. 11-14  1912. Speeches pertaining to the Democratic presidential
nominee and the presidential campaign.
f. 15-17  1913. Speeches concerning the Democratic Party as majority
party and its responsibilities.
f. 18  1915-1926. Includes speech on the fifth anniversary of Clark's
death by Finis J. Garrett, congressman from Tennessee.

f. 19  A.
f. 20  B. Speech on Thomas Hart Benton.
f. 21  C. Article, "Clark-Norton Campaign."
f. 22  H. Article, "House of Representatives and Workings Thereof."

f. 23  H-L.
f. 24  N.
f. 25  O-P.

f. 26-28  Miscellaneous
f. 26  Newspaper Clippings, 1911-1926, n.d. Primarily relating to the
1912 campaign and Clark's death.

f. 27  Photographs, 1910s.

f. 28  Miscellaneous. Includes drawing of Clark's tombstone, tally
sheet of 1917 vote electing Clark Speaker of the House, order of
services at Clark's funeral, and Clark for President stamps.

Clarence Cannon Papers

f. 29  Correspondence, 1921-1935, 1962-1963. Telegrams announcing
Champ Clark's death and correspondence concerning the publication of
Procedures in the House of Representatives and upon the 50th
anniversary of Clark's death.
f. 30-40 Newspaper Column, 1943-1949. A weekly column sent to 9th District newspapers concerning the war, agricultural problems, and other items of interest to Cannon's constituents.

f. 41 College Papers, 1897-1905. Papers written by Cannon while in college.

f. 42 Class Record, Stephens College, 1907-1908. Attendance record kept by Cannon when teaching at Stephens.

f. 43 Speech, 1925. Address by Cannon in the House of Representatives on the occasion of the unveiling of busts of Champ Clark and James R. Mann.

f. 44 Cannon Photograph, 1950s. Photo of a painting.

v. 1 Outline of sessions of the House of Representatives, January 14-March 4, 1915. Possibly kept by Cannon while parliamentarian. In the back of the volume are minutes and lists of Cannon family reunions, 1929-1936.

Boxes 1-5 Constituent Card File, 1940-1964. Cards list name and address of constituent, request made of Cannon, and action taken. Most requests were for government positions.

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